

## PSALM 21

### *Praise for Deliverance*

#### INTRODUCTION.

- A. To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.
- B. Some apply much of this psalm to the Messiah, but it could all apply to the king prayed for in the previous psalm. Much in the promises to David his attitudes that are used to describe the Christ that it may be very appropriate to make a double application from them. Coffman says that “there is a great deal of the language in this Psalm which cannot in the wildest employment of the imagination be ascribed to anyone else except the Messiah” (p. 150).

#### THE TEXT.

- 21:1** O LORD, in Your strength the king will be glad,  
And in Your salvation how greatly he will rejoice!
- 2** You have given him his heart's desire,  
And You have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah.
- 3** For You meet him with the blessings of good things;  
You set a crown of fine gold on his head.
- 4** He asked life of You,  
You gave it to him,  
Length of days forever and ever.
- 5** His glory is great through Your salvation,  
Splendor and majesty You place upon him.
- 6** For You make him most blessed forever;  
You make him joyful with gladness in Your presence.
- 7** For the king trusts in the LORD,  
And through the lovingkindness of the Most High he will not be shaken.
- 8** Your hand will find out all your enemies;  
Your right hand will find out those who hate you.
- 9** You will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger;  
The LORD will swallow them up in His wrath,  
And fire will devour them.
- 10** Their offspring You will destroy from the earth,  
And their descendants from among the sons of men.
- 11** Though they intended evil against You  
And devised a plot,  
They will not succeed.
- 12** For You will make them turn their back;  
You will aim with Your bowstrings at their faces.
- 13** Be exalted, O LORD, in Your strength;  
We will sing and praise Your power.

#### COMMENTS.

- A. **[v1-4]** As Bro. Coffman has mentioned before, God's blessings are often stated in grand and glorious terms. The superlatives here are in describing how richly God blessed the king. Even v4, describing God's answer to the prayer for life, “and you gave it to him—length of days forever and ever” can refer to any child to whom God gives eternal life. It applies to David as well as to the Christ, Who is God. God often gives us more than we ask for, in blessings and in punishment.
- B. **[v5,6]** Is the “man after God's own heart” to be “blessed forever” and did David have great joy with God's presence? It depends on how we are looking at the verses, but this seems to apply to all godly men who are faithful to God. Coffman suggests that God's presence is only in heaven, but Paul told the Athenians in Ac. 17:27,28.
- C. **[v7]** Several psalms refer to God as “the Most High.”

- D. **[v8-10]** “Your enemies” groups all who do not serve God. This includes those who “do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”(2Th. 1:8).  
“You shall make them as a fiery oven... and the fire shall devour them.” God often refers to man’s punishment as being in fire.  
**[v9]** is a prayer of the people for the King and for his concern for their needs.
- E. **[v11-13]** God is able to overcome all who oppose Him. The book of Revelation describes in great symbolism how the Lord will conquer every enemy. Overcoming all enemies is how the Lord will “be exalted” and his strength shown to man.